RBL Ltd., Scooters India Ltd., Engineering Projects India Ltd., NEPA Ltd., Hindustan Cables Ltd., Instrumentation Ltd., Bharat Leather Ltd., Air India, Indian Airlines, Indian Tourism Development Corporation Ltd., Madras Fertilizers Ltd., National Fertilizers Ltd., Hindustan Copper Ltd. and Jessop & Company Ltd. In 2 cases, disinvestment has been cleared but advisors are yet to be appointed. These are Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd., and MSTC Ltd.

The process of disinvestment is in different stages of implementation in these companies.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Disinvestment in CPSUs

46. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cabinet has recently decided to disinvest the equity of Government's equity below 50 per cent in a number of CPSUs and hand over the Management of these Companies to the future strategic partners.

(b) if so, by when the names of the companies and the other details thereof;

(c) whether the Prime Minister had re-assured the Railway Minister subsequent to the Cabinet decision that the Cabinet decision will be put in abeyance until the issue is discussed with the Hon'ble Railway Minister; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) The policy of the government on disinvestment has been set out in the Budget Speech of 2000-2001. It has been announced that in nonstrategic PSUs Government's equity will be reduced to 26% or lower if necessary.

The strategic sectors are:

1. Arms and Ammunitions and the allied items of defence equipments, defence aircrafts and warships.
2. Atomic Energy (except in the areas related to generation of nuclear power and application of radiation and radio isotopes to agriculture, medicine and non-strategic industries).
3. Railway transport

All other PSEs would be strategic. The reduction of government share in these will not be automatic. The manner and pace of doing so could be worked out on case to case basis.

PSUs without permanent chiefs

47. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) how many PSUs do not have permanent chiefs (and top directors);

(b) how many of the current top board level appointments are on a temporary basis; and

(c) how many recommendations of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) have been put on hold, or not implemented so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) 24 posts of Chief Executives and 39 posts of full time Directors were vacant as on 30.6.2000.

(b) 16 Board level posts are held on temporary basis.

(c) 25 recommendations of PESB are pending implementation with various Ministries/Departments.

Curtailing the powers of PESB

48. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to curtail the powers of the Public Enterprises Selection Board; and